FAMILIES SCHOOLS COMMUNITIES

SAFE
LONG BEACH

CITY OF LONG BEACH INCORPORATED 1897

CITY OF LONG BEACH

Violence Prevention Plan
2020

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PREFACE

CITY OF LONG BEACH,
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

333 West Ocean Boulevard | Long Beach, CA 90802 | 562.570.6711 | Fax 562.570.7650

May 13, 2014

Dear Community Member,

In July 2011, the City Council voted to request the preparation of a comprehensive Citywide Violence Prevention Plan. With direct oversight by the City Manager's Office, City Departments engaged in a concerted effort to address and devise components of the Plan for implementation. In addition, stakeholders throughout the City were engaged during the planning process to address all forms of violence, including child abuse, domestic violence, elder abuse, hate crimes, bullying, gang violence, and violent crime.

Notably, where the City set out to create a Violence Prevention Plan, the community asked for and now receives a comprehensive safety plan titled *Safe Long Beach: Families, Schools, and Communities.* Rather than accepting violence and trying to prevent it, the orientation of this Plan is toward creating and sustaining conditions of long-term safety. Safe Long Beach is modeled after the National Youth Forum on Violence Prevention created by the Obama Administration to assist cities in preventing and addressing violence.

Addressing a broad safety agenda, Safe Long Beach draws upon the City's many existing assets. These include strong neighborhoods and neighborhood organizations, a thriving downtown, continuously emerging economic development opportunities, award winning schools, and stable leadership. By forging relationships across disciplines, professions, and neighborhood boundaries, the Plan seeks to help provide victims with the protection and services they need to pursue safe and healthy lives.

Safe Long Beach is a coordinated effort for the entire City. Together, we will realize our vision that "Long Beach residents live in safe families and communities, attend safe schools, and are contributing citizens connected to their community."

Sincerely,

Patrick H. West
CITY MANAGER

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EXECUTIVE Summary

In July 2011, the City Council voted to request the preparation of a comprehensive Citywide Violence Prevention Plan. With direct oversight by the City Manager's Office, City Departments engaged in a concerted effort to address and devise components of the plan for implementation. In addition, stakeholders throughout the City were engaged during the planning process to address all forms of violence, including child abuse, domestic violence, elder abuse, hate crimes, bullying, gang violence, and violent crime.

Notably, where the City set out to create a Violence Prevention Plan, the community asked for and now receives a comprehensive safety plan titled *Safe Long Beach: Families, Schools, and Communities.* Rather than accepting violence and trying to prevent it, the orientation of this Plan is toward creating and sustaining conditions of long-term safety. Safe Long Beach is a comprehensive strategic plan for action to prevent violence in families, schools, and communities. Addressing a broad safety agenda, Safe Long Beach draws upon the City's many existing assets. These include strong neighborhoods and neighborhood organizations, a thriving downtown, continuously emerging economic development opportunities, award winning schools, and stable leadership. By forging relationships across disciplines, professions, and neighborhood boundaries, the Plan seeks to help provide victims with the protection and services they need to pursue safe and healthy lives, while supporting law enforcement to hold offenders accountable for their crimes.

The writing of Safe Long Beach was a collaborative effort involving youth, adults, community and faith-based organizations, the school district, law enforcement, and city and county government. Safe Long Beach is a permeable plan owned by all stakeholders and will be updated biannually to stay current with local trends. Rooted in the framework of collective action, stakeholders' resources, knowledge, and actions are combined and focused to help achieve the shared goal of violence reduction and increased safety. To enhance and leverage these assets, Safe Long Beach proposes to build upon protective factors, defined as conditions or attributes in individuals, families, communities, or the larger society that, when present, mitigate or eliminate risk in families and communities.[i] At the same time, Safe Long Beach will work to reduce risk factors, defined as conditions or variables associated with a lower likelihood of positive outcomes and a higher likelihood of negative or socially undesirable outcomes.

"Multi-sector collaboration including resources, knowledge, and actions are combined and focused to help achieve the shared goal of violence reduction and increased safety."

Safe Long Beach is a plan that examines existing evidence based prevention strategies and practices. It assesses how the existing citywide resources, services, and programs are being utilized and recommends how to coordinate these services in an effective and efficient manner. Through the planning process, the City has identified multiple agencies and City departments that are engaged in various aspects of violence prevention. The ongoing coordination of these efforts has led to long-term systems change and plan sustainability. With improved coordination, collaboration, communication, and commitment between the city and county governments, community-based organizations, faith leaders, and community residents, we will see a safer Long Beach by 2020.

VISION

Long Beach residents live in safe families and communities, attend safe schools, and are contributing citizens connected to their community.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

BALANCE » Balance personal accountability with mutual assistance – neighbor to neighbor, parent to child, government to resident, youth to community, community or faith-based organization to member or beneficiary.

COLLECTIVE ACTION » Work toward a common goal using the group's resources, knowledge, and efforts.

EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT » Increase and systematize coordination and collaboration by forging new partnerships, leveraging, and aligning resources.

EXPAND WHAT WORKS » Identify and expand evidence based and targeted strategies by seeking additional resources.

INCLUSION » Increase resident and neighborhood engagement and build positive connections on all levels.

LEADERSHIP » Engage leadership and champions from the public, private, nonprofit, faith, and community sectors.

MAXIMIZE OPPORTUNITIES » Maximize city engagement with neighboring and regional jurisdictions including regional, county, and inter-municipal strategies.

RESULTS ORIENTED » Commit to common results and indicators for the city as a whole and develop a method to track progress.

BOLD GOALS BY 2020

DECREASE

Aggravated Assaults, Domestic Violence Cases, Elder Abuse Cases, Homicides, Rapes, Shootings, The Number of Abused and Neglected Children

The Number of Incarcerated Youth, The Truancy Rate, The Unemployment Rate, & Violent Crime

INCREASE

Community Perception of Resident Safety

The High School Graduation Rate

Tequila Jack's
NO MOORING
MasterCraft
KITING

INTRODUCTION

Incorporated in 1888, Long Beach, CA is a progressive urban community of 462,000 people. The City is home to the second busiest port in the nation, a rejuvenated and thriving downtown, tourist attractions, one unified school district, a city college with two campuses, a state university, over 60 residential neighborhoods, 17 historic districts, and over 180 local neighborhood and business organizations.[ii]

Long Beach sits within densely populated Los Angeles County and is the seventh largest city in the State of California. Per U.S. Census 2010, the median age in Long Beach is 33.2 years old, and 25% of the residents are under the age of 18. Households average 2.8 persons, very close to the statewide average. Long Beach has a highly diverse resident population with 40.8% Latino/Hispanic, 29.4% Caucasian, 13.0% African American, 12.6% Asian, which includes Cambodian, Filipino, and Vietnamese, and 1.1% Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander. Years ago, the City was home to a preeminent west coast naval base and the influx of foreign-born immigrants since the 1970's have contributed to the City's diversity.

It is important to note that, the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana area ranked #2 in the US for having the greatest number of Lesbian, Gay, or Bisexual persons. Long Beach was one of only 25 cities nationwide to achieve a perfect score in the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index.

Long Beach benefits significantly from strong educational institutions. Long Beach Unified Schools District has 82,000 students spread over 84 schools. There are five charter schools and more than 40 private schools in greater Long Beach. Across the school district, 80% of high school students graduate on time. Citywide, 21.5% of adults have not graduated from high school, 19.5% have only a high school diploma, 31% have some college or an associate's degree, 18.4% have a bachelor's degree, and 9.6% have a graduate or professional degree. Long Beach City College and California State University Long Beach serve as local education hubs.

The City's economy is expanding as the region's economic base continues to shift from manufacturing industries to an information-based economy. There are several hundred businesses in the City and the top ten private sector employers include Verizon and Boeing. The Port of Long Beach promises job growth and new career opportunities due to recent development projects. It should be noted that as of October 2013, the City's unemployment rate was roughly 10%.

The City of Long Beach is rich in history with strong neighborhood leadership, numerous faith based-organizations, abundant social services, and a citywide network of parks, libraries, and workforce development programs. There are 186 recognized neighborhood groups, 567 graduates of the City's Neighborhood Leadership Program, and a nationally recognized Neighborhood Resource Center. There are several hundred places of worship and five faith-based collaborative groups citywide. There are over 300 nonprofits providing social services to community residents. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine manages 162 parks with 26 community centers, two historic sites, two major tennis centers, five golf courses, the largest municipally operated marina system in the nation, and six miles of beaches. The Long Beach Public Library has 12 branches with over 1.2 million visitors and 1.3 million materials loaned annually. The Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network oversees the federal Workforce Investment Act funding and the One-Stop Career Center that delivers critical workforce and economic development services.

BACKGROUND

On July 5, 2011, the City Council voted to request the preparation of a comprehensive Citywide Violence Prevention Plan. Then in June of 2012, the City received a planning grant from the California Endowment to fund the preparation of the Citywide Plan.

In January 2013, the City Manager invited community leaders, government agencies, the school district, hospital representatives, university delegates, community based organizations, and faith-based leaders to serve on the Long Beach Violence Prevention Steering Committee. The Committee members deal directly or indirectly with violence in their administrative roles. The Committee met quarterly for one year to oversee the planning process. At the same time, the City's Inter-Department Team was developed and met quarterly to strengthen collaboration and coordination among City departments that prevent, intervene, or suppress violence. The Team provided input on the Plan, developed an inventory of City violence prevention programs, and dismantled silos in program service delivery.

"Safe Long Beach values education as a tool to prevent violence."

From March to September 2013, the community-at-large participated in four community input forums in each quadrant of the City. In addition, community members and community groups attended twenty-two focus groups. Over 1,200 community members participated in the community forums and focus groups. Another 450 community members completed the Violence Prevention Community Survey. The top outcomes and recommendations from the community input process are woven throughout the Plan.

In addition, staff analyzed US Census data, Long Beach Police Department Crime Statistics, City of Long Beach Attorney Drug and Weapon Evictions, City of Long Beach Code Enforcement Cases, Los Angeles County Department of Probation Statistics, Los Angeles County Department of Child and Family Services Cases, Long Beach Unified School District Data, and Adult Protective Services Cases. This data was used to create fifty-two Geographic Information System (GIS) maps to clearly show the issue of violence in Long Beach.

In Fall 2013, staff inventoried city, county, community, and faith-based programs focused on alleviating the impact of violence in Long Beach. This inventory served as a gap analysis tool, which evolved into a citywide Community Resource Guide available online. Lastly, as part of the planning process, staff researched and cataloged evidence-based programs for violence prevention.

FRAMEWORK

Safe Long Beach is a living plan owned by all stakeholders and, as times change, it will be updated to reflect that change. Rooted in the framework of collective action, multi-sector collaboration including resources, knowledge, and actions are combined and focused to help achieve the shared goal of violence reduction and increased safety.

A fundamental requirement for Safe Long Beach is the collective sentiment that violence is not tolerated. The agency closest to the problem of violence is law enforcement, which includes the Police, City Prosecutor, the Los Angeles County District Attorney, and the Court system. The community and Police Department must work together to identify the perpetrators of violence. While law enforcement may nominally be responsible for reducing violence and enhancing safety in the community, they increasingly rely on the involvement of an engaged community to address some of the root causes of criminal activity.

Early intervention is also a key aspect of the Safe Long Beach strategy. There is a progression of violence that begins in the home during childhood that can then manifest itself in juvenile delinquency and develop into a lifetime of crime as an adult. Early intervention and targeted resources can help strengthen families, improve educational attainment, and increase community involvement, which have lasting positive effects to reduce acts of violence.

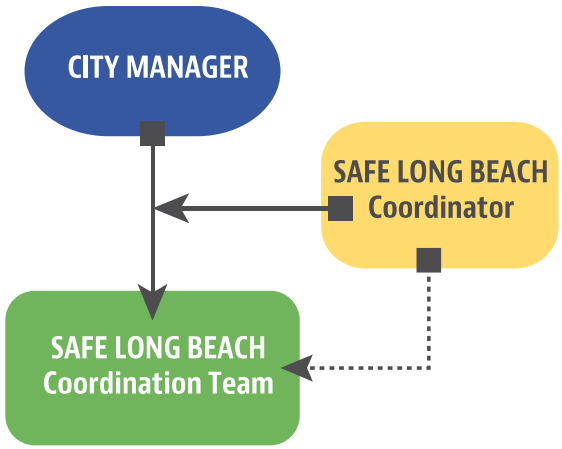
GOVERNANCE **Structure**

The **Safe Long Beach Coordinator** will staff the Coordination Team. As the Team refines, guides, and executes Safe Long Beach, the Coordinator will continuously work to incorporate feedback and recommendations to strengthen the Plan. As Safe Long Beach is implemented, the Coordinator will take responsibility for assisting the Coordination Team in responding to challenges in service delivery and plan execution. The Plan Coordinator will report to the City Manager, or designee, for day-to-day supervision and ongoing guidance.

A **Coordination Team**, invited by the City Manager, will serve in an advisory role to provide oversight, policy guidance, and accountability. This Team will consist of top leaders of public agencies, City staff, local hospitals, community and faith-based organizations, and community members. The Coordination Team will meet to assess the Safe Long Beach implementation progress, receive updated assessments, review committee reports, and provide strategic direction.

SAFE
LONG BEACH

Governance Structure



THEORY of Change

Theory of Change defines all building blocks required to bring about a given long-term goal. This set of connected building blocks—interchangeably referred to as outcomes, results, accomplishments, or preconditions are depicted on a map known as a pathway of change or a change framework. Safe Long Beach is based on a theory of change to reduce violence with three pillars grounded in nationally recognized best and promising practice:

STRENGTHEN FAMILIES:
Promote "strong and supportive families with loving, nurturing relationships; financial stability; and positive connections to people, organizations, and opportunities" via "quality support systems and thriving and nurturing communities." [iii]

BUILD POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT:
Provide young people with "a variety of opportunities to learn and participate at home, at school, in community-based programs and in their neighborhoods as leaders under the guidance of caring adults."[iv]

SUPPORT COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP:
Increase resident involvement and leadership, partnering with neighborhood associations, and law enforcement through innovative community-based policing and crime prevention programs and policies.

RISK and **Protective** Factors

Addressing a broad safety agenda, Safe Long Beach draws upon the City's many existing assets. These include strong neighborhoods and neighborhood organizations, a thriving downtown, continuously emerging economic development opportunities, award winning schools, and stable leadership.

To enhance and leverage these assets, Safe Long Beach proposes to build upon protective factors, defined as conditions or attributes in individuals, families, communities, or the larger society that, when present, mitigate or eliminate risk in families and communities.[v] Individual and family protective factors include high grade point average, getting along with others, faith, connected to family and caring adults, parent expects their child to do well in school, spending time as a family, parent involvement when the child is waking up, coming home from school, eating dinner, and or going to bed, involvement in social activities, supportive parenting and strong family values. School protective factors include positive school climate that enhances belonging and school connectedness. Social and life event protective factors include support available during critical times, participation in community networks, access to support services, and strong identity and pride.

At the same time, Safe Long Beach will work to reduce risk factors, defined as conditions or variables associated with a lower likelihood of positive outcomes and a higher likelihood of negative or socially undesirable outcomes. Individual risk factors include being a victim of violence, being aggressive, using drugs or alcohol, poor self control, emotional problems, does not work well with others, and exposure to violence in the home. Family risk factors include harsh or lax disciplinary practices, low parent involvement, substance abuse by parents, parents committing crimes, and no or low supervision of children. Peer risk factors include spending time with peers committing crime, gang involvement, rejected by peers, not involved in sports, arts, or social activities, and not interested in school. Community risk factors include high unemployment rates, high levels of poverty, moving frequently, serious family problems, family not involved in the community, and lacking sense of community.

RISK FACTORS		PROTECTIVE FACTORS
Difficult Temperament Low Self Esteem Negative Thinking Style	**CHILD**	Easy Temperament Good Social and emotional skills Optimistic coping style
Family disharmony, instability or breakup Harsh or inconsistent discipline style Parents with mental illness or substance abuse	**FAMILY**	Family harmony and stability Supportive parenting Strong family values
Peer rejection School failure Poor connection to school	**SCHOOL**	Positive school climate that enhances belonging and connectedness
Difficult school transition Death of Family Member Emotional Trauma	**LIFE EVENTS**	Involvement with caring adult Support available at critical times
Discrimination Isolation Socioeconomic disadvantage Lack of access to support	**SOCIAL**	Participation in community networks Access to support services Economic security Strong cultural identity and pride

COORDINATION

PLAN

SAFE FAMILIES Coordination *Plan*

Family violence is often regarded as being a private family matter. However, research suggests that when violence occurs in the home, the negative outcomes for the greater community can be substantial.[vi] This learned behavior of violence impacts a child into their teen and adult years at school, work, and neighborhood. Many studies have found that when children are abused, neglected, and/or watch their parent/guardian endure or inflict physical abuse, they are more likely to commit violent acts later in life. For instance, evidence shows that 97% of incarcerated males have been victims of some sort of child abuse.[vii]

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study showed that children exposed to violence also have multiple health and social problems as adults, which may include alcohol abuse, depression, drug use/abuse, intimate partner violence, suicide attempts, early initiation of sexual activity, and adolescent pregnancy.[viii] Furthermore, when children are exposed to violence or have been victims of child abuse, they are more likely to abuse their own children and/or partners. This phenomenon is referred to as the intergenerational transmission of violence, where the same harmful patterns and behaviors of abuse get passed down from generation to generation.[ix] However, there are several protective factors that can lower the risk of family violence, such as parent education to enhance effective communication and problem-solving skills, consistent displays of warmth and affection, supportive parent-child relationships, and having social support outside of the home.

The Safe Families Coordination Plan is designed to deconstruct the intergenerational cycle of violence and enhance protective factors by promoting increased coordination of existing resources, use of evidence-based programs, and data driven results. The two goals under Safe Families are (F1) to increase access to violence prevention services and (F2) reduce family violence - child abuse, domestic violence, and elder abuse. The first objective under the first goal (F1.1) calls for the development of a citywide resource guide. Studies show that when organizations and service providers work together to obtain and share resources, the needs of the community members are met at a greater level, and a sense of social connectedness can be established.[x] In addition to improving awareness of resources for service providers, the next objective (F1.2) involves improving access to resources for the community members through enhancing services at five Community Resource Centers. This objective addresses the need to effectively and efficiently align existing resources to provide the right services, at the right time, to the people most in need of them.

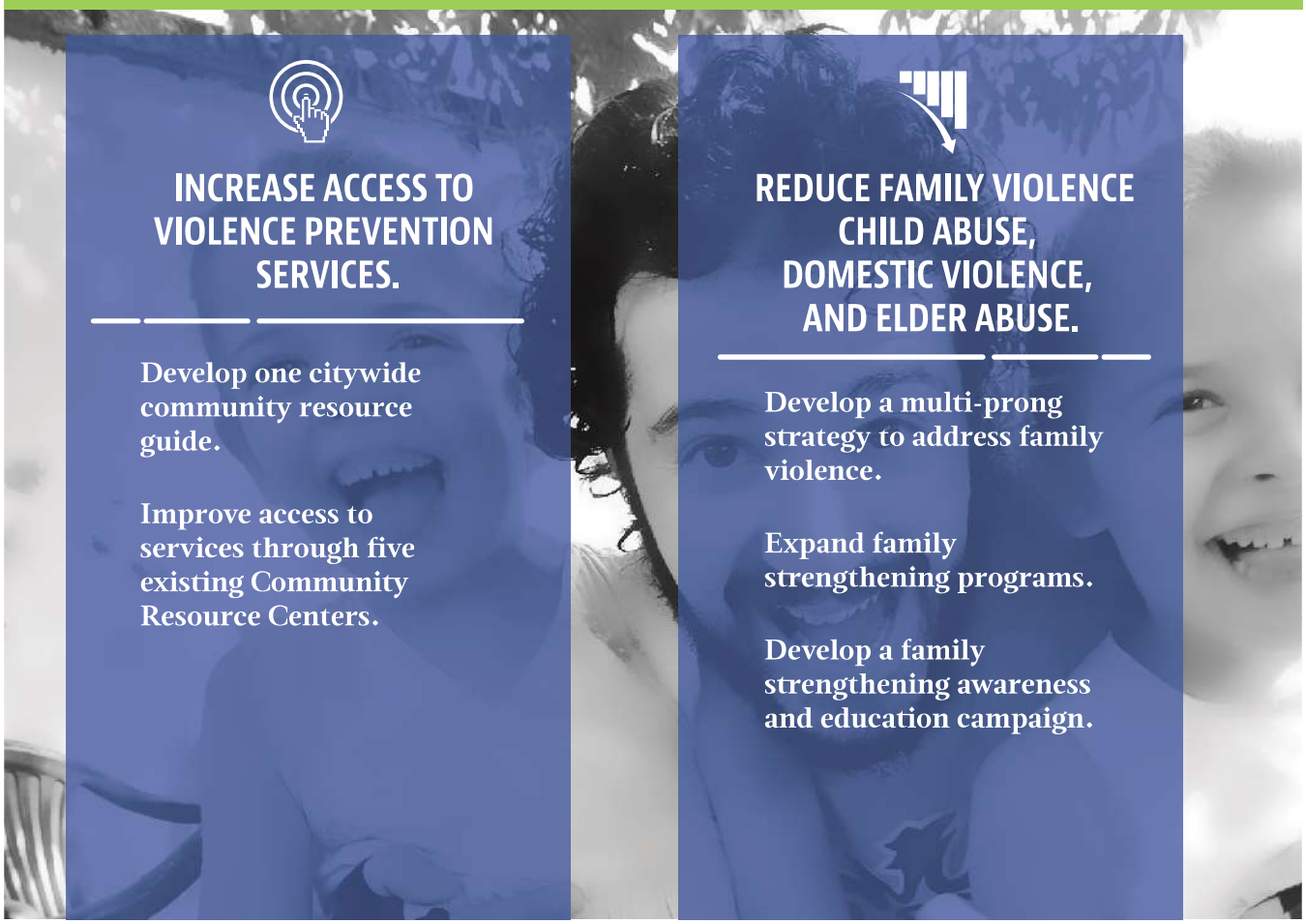
"Safe Long Beach seeks to positively transform individuals' spheres of family, school and community, in turn allowing these individuals to create their own positive change within these systems."

The second goal (F2) reduce family violence - child abuse, domestic violence, and elder abuse is supported by three objectives. The first objective (F2.1) involves developing a multi-pronged strategy to address family violence. For families exposed to various types of family violence, they may interact with police, probation, child welfare, the school district, and other government agencies attempting to alleviate their situation. This objective calls for the creation of an interdisciplinary team of experts, government agencies, and service providers to work across disciplines and jurisdictions to lift the family out of the intergenerational cycle of violence. The interdisciplinary team is modeled after the wraparound approach, which is an evidenced-based program focused on addressing each

family challenge to improve the overall level of family wellbeing. The second objective under this goal (F2.2) distinguishes the need to expand family strengthening programs, such as parenting classes, mental health, and grief support to positively impact a greater number of families exposed to violence. These programs will replicate evidence-based interventions to assist families coping with family violence, at-risk for violence, or otherwise need additional support. Research regarding child abuse and intimate partner violence has found that distressed families are socially isolated from both formal and informal support systems, which validates the need for these interventions. In addition, the conditions of distressed families can become further aggravated, and subsequently more prone to violence, in the absence of support from the outside community.

Understanding the importance of extending a helping hand to families in Long Beach, the Safe Families Coordination Plan is designed to increase awareness and access of available resources through objective three (F2.3), which calls for the development of a family strengthening awareness and education campaign. Data suggests that families and communities are at greater risk for a number of health and wellbeing problems when they are unaware of the existing resources in their community.[xl] With this knowledge, Safe Long Beach places awareness and education at a high priority.

SAFE Family Goals



SAFE SCHOOLS Coordination *Plan*

School is one of the most important places in a child's life, as it provides an environment to grow socially and academically. In the classroom, students can thrive, take advantage of opportunity, and achieve their highest potential. Research shows that student engagement in schools decreases the likelihood of criminal involvement, drug use, gang activity, and becoming truant or dropping out of school altogether.[xII]

Understanding the importance of school involvement can minimize other risk factors, such as truancy. Truancy is often the first sign of a series of antisocial behaviors that lead to negative personal and developmental outcomes, which in turn, impact the larger community. At the personal and developmental level, truancy is associated with alcohol and drug use, unsafe sexual behaviors, gang violence and delinquency.[xIII] Furthermore, truant students are prone to low academic achievement and are less likely to graduate from high school. Truancy often leads to negative occupational consequences in adulthood, including less stable career patterns, low-wage positions with little opportunity for advancement, and higher rates of unemployment.[xIV] Truancy also negatively impacts the community. Daytime crime rates, particularly vandalism, shoplifting, residential burglaries, gang violence, and interracial tensions, have been shown to increase in areas where truancy is a common problem. Staying in school is a vital component in ensuring the safety and future of the younger generations, and this sentiment was echoed during the Long Beach Violence Prevention Plan Community Focus Groups. In the focus groups, students, principals, and administrators consistently reported that Long Beach school campuses are viewed as a safe haven for students, particularly for those who are exposed to violence at home or in the community.

Complementing the Strategic Goals set forth by Long Beach Unified School District, the Safe Schools Coordination Plan seeks to accomplish two goals (S1) increase the high school graduation rate and (S2) increase safety in and around schools. The first goal (S1) is informed by research that shows how academic achievement can prevent youth violence. Numerous studies have found a link between greater levels of academic success with lower death rates; conversely, less education is continuously linked to earlier death rates.[xV] The first objective for this goal (S1.1) involves increasing student performance in English/Language Arts and Math annually. Empirical evidence proves that, when a high school student is not proficient in English/Language Arts, he or she is also likely to have challenges in mathematics.[xVI] Developing these skills is paramount to reaching high school graduation, as many state exams and high school exit requirements mandate proficiency in these areas. Furthermore, the number of college undergraduates who have to take remedial math and English courses is increasing each year, which presents an additional barrier to college success.[xvii] Safe Long Beach values education as a tool to prevent violence.

The second objective for goal one (S1.2) focuses on increasing school attendance and reducing chronic absenteeism. As mentioned previously, truancy is a major risk factor for low academic achievement and juvenile delinquency. Increasing school attendance and reducing absenteeism will lead to increased school performance. Objective three (S1.3) calls out the need to increase parent education and parent involvement in schools. Outside of the classroom, parental involvement in the learning process has shown to be extremely influential in improving academic performance, especially in urban areas, due to high family dissolution rates, numerous two-parent working families, and other unique sociological pressures that children may face. In the community, programs that include a component of parental participation in their child's education are reported to have a positive influence on academic performance.[xviii] The final objective for goal one (S1.4) builds on the previous objectives by implementing a full-service community-school approach at five schools in Long Beach. Aside from parental

involvement, additional supportive networks, such as mentors, counselors, extracurricular groups, or teams have an indirect impact on achievement by increasing connectedness to the school and helping to build student strengths, thereby increasing self-esteem and positive social networks.[xix]

The second goal of the Safe Schools Coordination Plan is informed by data that suggests that when a school environment feels safe, students are more likely to attend school on a regular basis and actively engage in their learning.[xx] This goal is supported by two interrelated objectives (S2.1) increasing the community's perception of safety around schools and (S2.2) to decrease bullying in and around schools. Studies suggest that the perceived climate of the school may be more critical than delinquency or major safety items in predicting students' overall feelings about the safety of their school.[xxi]

The Safe Schools Coordination Plan describes a relay-style of collaboration, where student achievement, success, and safety is supported at home, in after-school programs, and at parks, libraries, and community-based organizations. This collective action will provide students with multiple sources of individualized support and assistance both on and off campus.

SAFE Schools Goals

INCREASE THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE.

Increase student performance in English/Language Arts and Math annually.

Increase school attendance and reduce chronic absenteeism.

Increase parent education and parent involvement in schools.

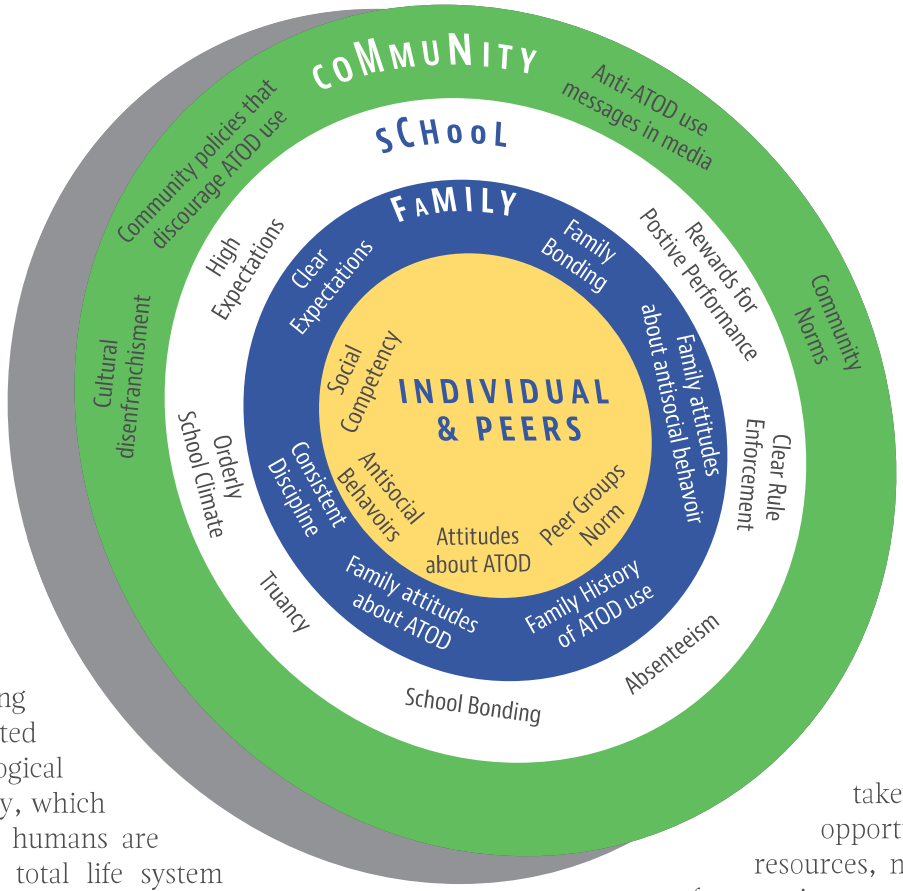
Implement the full service community school approach at five schools.

INCREASE SAFETY IN AND AROUND SCHOOLS.

Increase community perception of safety around schools.

Decrease bullying in and around schools.

SAFE COMMUNITIES Coordination *Plan*



Safe Long Beach is rooted in the Ecological Systems Theory, which assumes "that humans are a part of the total life system and cannot be considered apart from all other living species in nature and the environments that surround them."[xxii] This suggests that the surrounding community shapes individuals and individuals have an equal effect on their community. Safe Long Beach seeks to positively transform individuals' spheres of family, school and community, in turn allowing these individuals to create their own positive change within these systems.

A healthy vibrant community provides resources, opportunities and an environment that maximize life outcomes for all. This includes quality schooling, access to well-maintained parks, recreational facilities and other safe spaces, quality social services, thriving business establishments, community involvement efforts and the safety to take advantage of these opportunities. Without these resources, negative consequences often arise, such as community violence. An extensive and pervasive issue, community violence is defined as exposure to acts of interpersonal violence perpetrated by those who are not closely related to the victim. Examples of this form of violence include burglary, muggings, use of a weapon in a public space, in addition to major social issues such as drugs, presence of gangs and racial tension.

The goals and objectives of the Safe Communities Coordination Plan are based on research and an understanding of what practices curb violence citywide. The strategy focuses on creating an environment with caring and engaged neighbors that have ample access to employment, necessary resources and safe spaces, inevitably leading to a safer community. The first goal is to increase community resident safety. Safe Long Beach seeks

to ensure that residents are safe and feel safe in their own neighborhoods as well as others parts of Long Beach.

The first objective under this goal (C1.1) focuses on increasing community engagement. A large body of research has found that community engagement is essential in improving quality of community life and maintaining community safety. Community engagement builds social infrastructure and local capacity to develop collective solutions as residents, local businesses, government agencies and social service agencies build relationships. Additionally, the engagement of residents ensures that needs and concerns of the community are better understood and adequately addressed. The next two objectives (C1.2) increase use of City and Neighborhood Improvement Programs and (C1.3) Increase use of safe spaces for children, youth, adults, and seniors, are meant to reduce violence through improvements in the physical environment. According to research conducted by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, programs such as business/housing façade improvement, neighborhood clean-ups, graffiti removal and neighborhood beautification instill a sense of ownership and pride in residents, consequently, reducing levels of crime in that area. Additionally, providing residents with positive activities in public spaces, such as parks and recreational centers, has proven to reduce crime that occurs within the area. The last objective under this goal (C1.4) states that

SAFE Communities Goals

INCREASE COMMUNITY RESIDENT SAFETY

Increase resident engagement.

Increase use of City and Neighborhood Improvement Programs.

Increase use of safe spaces for children, youth, adults and seniors.

Increase the number of community watch programs in five neighborhoods.

DECREASE THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Increase the number of adults and youth using employment and job training programs.

Increase the number of employers involved in job development.

REDUCE PART 1 CRIMES

Decrease homicides.

Decrease rapes.

Decrease robberies.

Decrease aggravated assaults.

Decrease gang-related homicides.

the City will support five neighborhoods to develop and implement community watch. This objective allows for residents, business, churches, parks, and schools to connect, collaborate and coordinate existing programs and services. Community Watch allows for community concerns of safety to be appropriately addressed. Community involvement will ensure the sustainability of Safe Long Beach and lead to increased safety in the neighborhood.

The second goal is to decrease the unemployment rate. The two objectives under this goal are (C2.1) increase the number of participants in employment and job training programs and (C2.2) increase the number of local employers involved in these programs. As research has shown, it is understood that, during times of economic hardship and higher unemployment rates, violence increases. Researchers at the John Hopkins Center for Gun Policy Research state that one of the strongest correlates to violence, specifically homicides, is poverty and unemployment.[xxiii] Higher employment for the City will help decrease the stressors created by poverty impacting many Long Beach families. Additionally, higher employment rates for youth will decrease social isolation and reduce violent and delinquent behaviors.[xxiv]

The third goal is to reduce Part 1 Crimes. The Long Beach Police Department, the City Prosecutor, and local law enforcement will continue to work diligently to decrease crime in Long Beach. Consistent with the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) reporting, the following objectives will be tracked annually: (C3.1) decrease homicides, (C3.2) decrease rapes (C3.3) decrease robberies, (C3.4) decrease aggravated assaults, and (C3.5) decrease gang-related homicides. The Safe Families, Schools, and Communities Goals will be implemented conjointly to impact Part 1 Crimes citywide.

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APPENDIX: **Resource** Documents

The following resource documents were used in the preparation of Safe Long Beach. These documents can be found at www.longbeach.gov.

Data on Violence and Safety Conditions
Glossary of Key Terms and Acronyms
Inventory and Definition of Evidenced Based Practice
Long Beach Violence Prevention Plan Community Forums and Focus Groups
Long Beach Violence Prevention Plan Community Resource Guide
Long Beach Violence Prevention Plan Community Survey
Safe Long Beach Logic Models

The plan has been made possible with generous funding from The California Endowment and the City of Long Beach.